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HEADQUARTERS CAMP DETRICK
FREDERICK, MARYLAND

23 September 1954

AIR MAIL

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Dept. of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

I was very much interested in your letter of September 20 and appreciate your thoughtfulness in bringing this information to my attention. Since, as you know, we are equipped here to handle pathogens, I would be quite interested in getting the material from Dr. Devignat so that we might try to confirm his claims. You can inform him of my interest and tell him that I would appreciate receiving his material.

You might be interested to learn that starting next week I am finally going to give a course in Microbial Genetics here under the auspices of the University of Maryland. Registration was Tuesday and I was completely amazed to find that 75 persons with a Bachelors Degree or better signed up for this course. This, of course, forced me to divide the class into two sections, and since each section is going to meet twice a week, I shall have my hands full until late January with teaching this course as well as a course in Scientific German which I taught here last semester too. I mention this added activity for two reasons. First of all, it will probably mean that I shall not be able to make my annual December trip to the midwest this year. Secondly, I wanted to let you know that if by any chance you should come east before the end of January, I would greatly appreciate having you visit us and at the same time present a guest lecture to my class. Maybe in this way, we can develop a reciprocal guest lecturer exchange program.

I took a real vacation this summer and spent a lazy four weeks in Miami Beach with my family prior to attending the Genetics Society meeting at Gainesville. The meeting was nice but not too exciting. However, I profited from interesting discussions with Zamenhof in which we thrashed out some of the problems connected with our recent studies on the selective effects of nucleotides. I never thought I would be happy spending more than a week entirely removed from everyday problems and interests but I guess I'm getting older because I enjoyed it quite a bit. I heard you had a rather interesting time at Woods Hole and would very much like to learn a little more about your impressions of Moewus' work. So far I have only heard a few second-hand wild rumors about the goings on at Woods Hole this summer.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg

23 September 1954

Please give my best regards to Esther and Cavalli. His presence there should certainly make the next couple of months particularly interesting for all of you.

Sincerely yours,



WERNER BRAUN

WB/bsp

P.S. Is there any further information on the apparently heterogeneous single prototroph isolates we sent you some time ago?